



President’s  
Message

Virginia O'Reilly



Dear Friends,  
Another exciting year is beginning for Los Gatos Friends. Our slate of Friday Night Forums looks most interesting, and our

president

highly successful Young Writers Workshops will continue because they were so enthusiastically received.

In addition, we will continue to add more to our coffers with proceeds from book sales and eBay. As we continue to work toward expansion of our busy and crowded library, Friends Board has begun touring the many new and improved libraries in our area. The Saratoga building is most impressive—huge in size with a wonderful Community Room for

library programs and non-profit groups to use. Their facilities for their Friends group—especially the large, book-sorting room—made us quite envious.

Santa Clara and Cupertino have also expanded, and our next tour is to the Martin Luther King library, a joint project between San Jose State University and San Jose. The next time you visit our over-crowded library, think of what other communities are doing and be inspired. A town like Los Gatos surely needs an outstanding library with room for at least some modern conveniences. You can help make this possible with your enthusiasm and resources. Please get involved today!



Soiree Musicale leads  
off holiday season

Soiree Musicale, a chamber music group, will initiate the holiday season with a performance **December 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers in a Friday Forum sponsored by Friends of Los Gatos Library.**

John Wells and Cheryl Luan play violin and viola and will perform music by Mozart, Handel-Halvorsen, Le Claire, and Dvorak.

Luan studied violin at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing from age 11 and received her degree there. She also received a degree in violin performance from San Francisco Conservatory. The violinist toured China for six years, soloing with the Beijing Opera. She was the second soloist ever to appear on national Chinese TV. Luan played with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, and the Women’s

Philharmonic, as assistant concertmaster. She teaches privately in Fremont.

Her husband, John Wells, studied violin with John Golz and violin/viola with Avis Aasen-Hull. He’s a board member of Soiree Musicale and the Violin Society of America, Concertmaster of the Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and was a founding member of the Tellaro String Quartet. Today both he and his wife perform with the Stradivari Quartet and the Luan-Wells Duo.

Soiree Musicale began 25 years ago to perform the classics as originally presented—by small groups in peoples’ homes. Today more than half of Musicale performances are held in Bay Area homes. Hot wassail and holiday finger foods will be offered.



Record  
Book Sales

The September book sale in Town Council Lobby brought in \$1,500, and July’s book sale garnered \$1,730. The August table sale total was \$1,853 – an all-time high. September table sales netted \$1,544.

Recent sales on eBay included videotapes from the Teaching Company – 15 courses at \$770; *Dark Horse, a Story of Seabiscuit* (preview copy) at \$443.88; and a six-volume set of Jane Austen, published in 1892, for \$139. The Australian buyer wanted them sent airmail, adding \$56 to the cost.



Young Writers  
Workshops:  
Winter/Spring  
2004

**Martha Alderson**, Friends board member, will again teach children and teens how to develop plot and characters to build a compelling story.

Three Saturday workshops will be held at the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street, Los Gatos:

- 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**
- January 31: ages 8 to 12**
- March 20: ages 13 to 16**
- April 24: ages 8 to 12**

**Alderson**, an award-winning author, teaches writing at U.C. Santa Cruz and leads workshops



Young Writers Workshop Registration

Student Name	Age	Workshop Date
Address		
Email		
Parent name	Phone	

You will receive confirmation of your registration. For more information, call the Friends message line at 399-5700.

children

for the California Writers Club and the Jack London Kids Writing Camp. Her website:

**<http://www.blockbusterplots.com>**  
She will be assisted by Friends’ board members who are retired teachers. Last spring 45 young writers created exciting characters and plots to build stories that brought both tears and laughter to their listeners. All asked to come back for more.

Writing materials, drinks and cookies are provided. Bring a lunch. Mail registration form and a check for \$15 payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library or FLGPL, 110 E. Main St. Los Gatos, 95030 or drop off at the library.

Children’s Fall  
Programs

*Children’s Programs are funded by Friends of the Library. Children’s Library phone: 354-6891*

**October 16, 7:00 p.m.**  
Family Night. Fratello Marionettes present *Vaudeville Follies*, a marionette variety show  
Ages 4 and up.

**October 23, 3:30 p.m.**  
Celebrate Halloween with Magician Gerald Joseph;  
Ages 5 and up

**November 13, 3:30 p.m.**  
Rainbow the Clown  
Ages 3-6

**November 20, 7:00 p.m.**  
Family Night. Caterpillar Puppets present *The Itty Bitty Puppet Show*  
Ages 4 and up

**December 11, 3:30 p.m.**  
P & T Puppet Theatre presents *Elves & the Shoemaker*  
Ages 4 and up

Friends  
Financial report

Closing balances for Friends of the Library finances:

Reserve account	\$50,337
Maximizer	\$37,652
Checking	\$966
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,955</b>

# New books in the Library

Shirley Skellenger,  
Reference Supervisor

## Non-Fiction

***Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded, August 27, 1883*** by **Simon Winchester**; The best-selling author of *The Professor and the Madman* examines the world-changing effects of the catastrophic eruption off the coast of Java of the earth's most dangerous volcano—Krakatoa.

***Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*** by **Azar Nafisi** Azar Nafisi sets up a book club for women in post-revolutionary Iran and the result is a superb read as memoir, literary criticism and social history. Forbidden books she taught: Nabokov, Fitzgerald, James and Austen.

***Under the Banner of Heaven*** by **Jon Krakauer** In 1984, Ron and Dan Lafferty murdered the wife and infant daughter of their brother, claiming they were acting on direct orders from God. The shadowy world of Mormon fundamentalism is the backdrop of this story of the killers and their crime.

***War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*** by **Chris Hedges** Hedges examines the way human beings experience war and suggests that war gives rise to dangerous myths of the nobility of the cause. A long-time foreign correspondent for The New York Times, he draws on his experiences in Latin America and Bosnia.

***Kate Remembered*** by **A. Scott Berg** Full of crisply-voiced takes on old Hollywood and intimate looks at Katherine Hepburn's everyday life. Not an objective biography, but a

# books

reporting of her thoughts and memories.

***Benjamin Franklin: an American Life*** by **Walter Isaacson** The most inventive of our Founding Fathers, Franklin is shown as a revolutionary leader who prizes pragmatism over moralism; religious tolerance over fundamentalist rigidity; and social mobility over class privilege.

***In the Presence of My Enemies*** by **Gracia Burnham**, with **Dean Merrill**. Burnham and her husband Martin, a missionary pilot, were captured by a Philippine Muslim extremist group and lived with their captors and other hostages in the Philippine jungle for more than a year. In a botched rescue attempt by the Philippine army, Martin Burnham and a nurse were killed.

## Fiction

***Blindside: an FBI Thriller*** by **Catherine Coulter** Sheriff Katie Benedict, meets up with FBI agents when she and her 5-year-old daughter rescue a 6-year-old boy fleeing kidnappers. The trail to determine why the boy was abducted leads to a charismatic evangelist and his enigmatic wife.

***The Time Traveler's Wife*** by **Audrey Niffenegger** Funny and poignant, this boy meets girl tale serves up a twist: what if one of them can't stop slipping in and out of time? Original and imaginative, this debut novel questions life, love and the effects of time on relationships.

***The Center of Everything*** by **Laura Moriarty** In this extraordinary first novel, a young girl tries to make sense of an unruly world spinning around her. Growing up with a single mother who is chronically out of work and dating a married man, Evelyn Bucknow learns early how to fend for herself.

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by **Sue Monk Kidd** A 14-year-old white girl is raised by an elderly African American after the accidental death of her mother. Following a racial brawl, the two find shelter in a distant town with three black, bee-keeping sisters.

***The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*** by **Alexander McCall Smith** Combining mystery with a classic novel of Africa, this is the story of Precious Ramotswe, a delightful, cunning and moral woman—and the first female private detective in Botswana—who is drawn to her profession to help people with problem lives.

***A Place of Hiding*** by **Elizabeth George** Marking new territory in the darker landscape of human relationships is this suspenseful story of betrayal and devotion, love and loss. Chinga River and her half-brother Cherokee find themselves involved in the murder of a wealthy man in England.

***The Namesake*** by **Jhumpa Lahiri** Expanding on her themes of the clash of cultures and the tangled ties of generations, Lahiri's poignant first novel draws on the emotion and insight that have made fans of half a million readers after her story collection debut.



# Library Director's Corner

Peggy Conaway



The rich and vivid history of Los Gatos has been photographed for more than 150 years. The library owns hundreds of historic photographs, as well as microfilm of local newspapers dating from July 1, 1881, when the first issue of the *Los Gatos News* was published by W.S. Walker.

Scrapbooks, brochures, maps, phone books, and postcards are also part of our local history collection. The paper collections are fragile and yellowed with age, inadequately housed and catalogued, and only marginally accessible to the public in their delicate condition.

In June of this year library staff began an intensive effort to preserve and digitize our local history

## New Board Members continued

From 1971 to 1975 she operated her own design studio, *La Bottega*, in Los Gatos. Later, she was purchasing agent for Bernard's Fine Foods. She's a dedicated traveler and reader.

***Ann McClanahan*** Ann coordinates the Continuing Medical Education program for physicians at three hospitals—Good Sam, San Jose Medical Center and Regional Medical. She's in charge of 18 programs a month and keeps doctors



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collections. The Los Gatos Lions Club purchased a state-of-the-art scanner for our project, and throughout the summer volunteers scanned and indexed hundreds of photographs. Initial publicity brought in a few donations, and the decision was made to spend some Library Trust moneys to support this project. The library produced a brochure explaining the project and asking for donations, and the Friends agreed to sponsor one or more full-page ads in the Los Gatos Weekly concerning the history project, as well as asking for contributions via the Library's Wish List posted on amazon.com. A Friends' membership application form will also appear within the ad.

The local history project is both large and long-term. The library is hoping for a high-level of community involvement. We are

up to date on new medications, new diseases and new procedures. She's been active in theater and opera groups, blood drives and was a reader for local public radio in Virginia. Growing up in Washington D.C., McClanahan never missed a parade.

## Betsy Petersen

Not many of us have worn out a library card, but Betsy Petersen has. A sympathetic librarian said, "Let me get you a new



seeking both tax deductible financial support and access to historic photos of Los Gatos, owned by individuals.

Our desire is to scan personal photos, and use them with the permission of the owners. Photographs will be returned to the owners immediately after scanning. We are currently concentrating on the years 1850-1960.

In the future, all scanned photographs and other historic materials will be available for viewing on the library's web site. Names of contributors will appear on the web site, and photos will be credited to their owners. Staff is also currently setting up a small local history room in the lower level of the library to house our valuable collections. Please contact me at 408-354-6895 if you have photos you are willing to have scanned for our database. If you wish to donate to our project, please write a check to the **Library Trust Fund — Digitize, and mail to Los Gatos Public Library, 110 E, Main St., Los Gatos, 95030.**





# A Friend indeed

## Alice Lum

Mary Ann Cook

**Alice Lum** is one of those quiet, unsung volunteer workers at the library. She comes in twice a week to stock the used book tables. Proceeds from sales of those 50-cent books go to FLGPL and ultimately to library enhancements.

**Alice Lum** is a retired nurse who worked for Plum Tree Convalescent Home for more than ten years and at Bethesda before that. Reading, how-



ever, is her life-long love, and when she saw **Marge Rice** stocking the tables some eight years ago, she mentioned she'd like to help out. Ever alert for willing hands, Rice enrolled her on the spot and Lum has been a faithful stocker ever since.

Alice's husband, Bun, taught at Los Gatos High School for more than thirty years, headed the business department. The two have two sons—one in Chicago, one in Hayward—and two granddaughters, with a third well on the way.

### Help needed:

If you'd like to help price books via the Internet, searching for clues such as first editions, please give Friends Phoneline (399-5700) a call and ask for **Pamela Laurence**. She's the trainer for those who evaluate better books.

# Preserving the past



This is one of the most provocative of the hundreds of historic photos that the library is digitizing. Any idea who these people are and what their procession means?

*For lovers of local history lore, for researchers, students or anyone who has a question about the evolution of this town, the History Project now underway at the library is a godsend.*

*Library staff and eager volunteers are digitizing hundreds of historic photos, postcards and other memorabilia of Los Gatos history, circa 1860-1960, to preserve the past for the future.*

*The results will be indexed and ultimately placed in the library website: <http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us>. In addition, Arcadia Publishing will put the material in book form in fall of 2004 as part of their "Images of America" series. If you want to add to this fascinating project, Library Director Peggy Conaway would be glad to hear from you. Her number is 354-6895.*

*In a gift-giving mood? You can give a boost to the library during these squeezed economic times by logging on to <http://library.town.los-gatos.ca.us> and clicking on "Buy a Book for the Library." Your gift is tax-deductible, of course.*

## Friends Friday Forums

Music, mystery, theater and food is what we're cooking up for this year. All programs are at 7:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers. Here's the lineup:

November 14, 2003

*Elegant but Easy Cookbook*

Just in time for the holidays, author **Lois Levine** shares her entertaining ideas. Regardless of your hosting style, you won't want to miss this San Carlos author's tips. Book signing before and after the program. Refreshments will include finger food samplings from her book.

December 5, 2003

*Soiree Musicale*

A special start to a merry season: Soiree Musicale, husband and wife violin/violist perform a holiday music program. Friends of the Library will serve hot wassail and holiday finger foods before the program.

February 27, 2004

*Ten Minute Plays*

Back by popular demand: Ten Minute Plays by **Mary Ann Cook**, **Riva Rubnitz** and **Dennis Carter**. Cook is a Friends board member and *Los Gatos Weekly Times* columnist. Rubnitz, also of Los Gatos, is a family therapist. Carter is a retired engineer. The three took a blended work to Scotland's Fringe Festival in August. Plays will be performed by local actors.

May 14, 2004

*Mystery Writer Laurie King*

An interview with mystery writer, **Laurie King**, author of *O Jerusalem*, *The Bee Keeper's Apprentice* and *Keeping Watch*. Author **Martha Alderson** will interview this award-winning mystery writer, with questions from the audience after the interview. King will sign books, including her new (Sherlock) Holmes and Russell book due out in March. Friends annual business meeting precedes her talk.